

REMARKS

In the Office Action of January 2, 2003, Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 15 were allowed. Claim 14 was objected to. In response, Claim 14 is amended. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Objection to Claim 14

Claim 14 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form on the alleged grounds that it is broader, rather than narrower, than Claim 7 from which it depends. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Claim 14 includes compounds outside the scope of Claim 7.

In response, Claim 14 is amended as an independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claim 14 is thereby overcome.

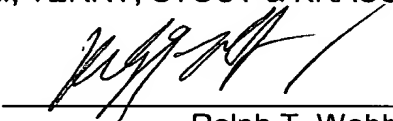
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12 - 15 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Kindly charge any additional fees due, or credit overpayment of fees, to
Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (612.38836X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE CLAIMS

14. (amended) A water-based well fluid according to Claim 7, to be
circulated in a well passing through a porous, permeable formation, said water-
based comprising a maximum of 1 g/l of a composition comprising at least one
compound selected from the group consisting of the partial esters of polyols with C6-
C16 fatty acids, wherein said polyols are selected from the group consisting of diols,
triols, or polyols with more than 3 hydroxy functions, or and mixed polyalkoxide
derivatives thereof, and chain lengths of the acid and polyol parts being selected
such that said partial ester has sufficient dispersion in water and compatibility with
any other ingredients, does not form an emulsion with reservoir oil and adsorbs
sufficiently on the porous formation.